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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Pu-Sheng CHENG et al.

Confirmation No.: 1237

Application No.: 10/626,369

Group Art Unit: 1761

Filing Date: July 23, 2003

Examiner: A. Weier

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
DISPENSING A LIQUID BEVERAGE  
CONCENTRATE

Attorney Docket No.: 88265-10365

**PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED  
CLAIM OF PRIORITY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This petition is being filed to claim the benefit, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, of certain prior-filed non-provisional applications of this Application No. 10/626,369. The factual bases for this request are as follows:

This application was filed on March 16, 2004 as a continuation of International application PCT/EP02/00770 filed January 22, 2002, and a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/768,784 filed January 25, 2001 ("the '784 application").

The '784 application claims the benefit of two earlier applications, namely, it is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/453,932, filed on May 16, 2000, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,319,537, which application claims the benefit of provisional application No. 60/134,460 filed May 17, 1999.

It now has been found that priority claims to these two earlier applications were omitted when the '784 application was filed and that this petition is now being filed to claim the benefit of those applications. The earlier applications include at least one common inventor and were copending at the appropriate time periods. This is confirmed by US patent 6,756,069, the patent which issued from the '784 application, which claims the priorities of the earlier

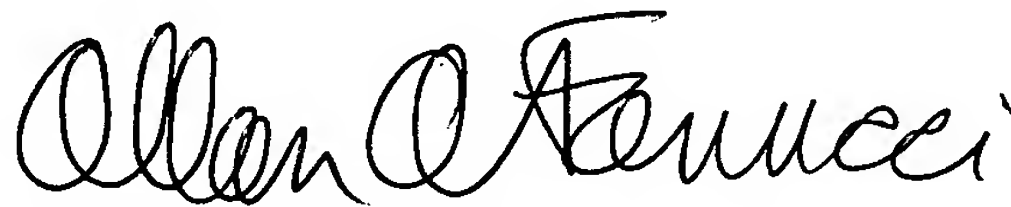
applications and from which the present application is a continuation. Therefore, all the requirements set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(1) for claiming the benefit of prior-filed applications have been met in the '784 application, and applicants request that the appropriate priority claims now be made in this application.

Further, Petitioner hereby states that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim is being filed was unintentional and respectfully requests that the prior applications be included in the chain of title of the present application.

A fee of \$1,370 is believed to be required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.17(t). Please charge all required fees to Winston & Strawn LLP Deposit Account No. 50-1814.

Respectfully submitted,

9-9-05  
Date

  
Allan A. Fanucci, Reg. No. 30,256

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